Amendments to the Specification

Pages 16-19, the paragraph bridging these pages, page 16, line 25 to page 19, line 9, replace the paragraph with:

The second buffer unit (31, 32, 33) includes a plurality of independent lines 31 which are extended parallel to the second conveyer line 9 and are movable in both-ways. The sample rack 13 for which the analysis has completed is transferred from the fourth conveyer line 22 to the second conveyer line 9 by the second line switching unit 11 and is conveyed to a second buffer unit entrance 32 with the second conveyer line 9. A third line switching unit 33 is disposed at the second buffer unit entrance 32 and transfers the sample rack 13 into the second buffer unit. Each of the lines in the second buffer unit can hold a plurality of sample racks 13 independently of one another. Also, at least one or more vacant positions are left on each line. For example, when the sample rack 13 is to be placed anywhere on the last line, the vacant positions on the lines prior to the last line are all aligned with the second buffer unit entrance 32. Then, the sample rack 13 having been conveyed to the second buffer unit entrance 32 with the second conveyer line 9 is placed in the designated position on the last line by the third line switching unit 33 after passing through all the vacant positions of the lines prior to the last line. The sample racks 13 may be placed in the second buffer unit in regular order from the most front line or at random. Anyway, the positions where the sample racks have been placed are stored in a storage. The sample rack 13 stands by in the second buffer unit until the

analysis results of all samples set in the sample rack 13 are obtained. With the second buffer unit thus constructed, as with the first embodiment, it is possible to access the sample racks 13 in the second buffer unit at random and hence to efficiently process the sample racks 13 for which the analysis results have been obtained. Furthermore, the sample rack 13 for which the analysis result has been obtained is returned to the second conveyer line 9 by third line switching unit 33 with the aid of the vacant positions in a way reversal to that described above. If there is no request for re-analysis, the sample rack 13 is collected into the sample rack collecting unit 4 through the first rotor 7. On the other hand, the sample rack 13 which is requested for re-analysis is transferred from the second conveyer line 9 onto the second conveyer line 9 again by the first line switching unit 8, and is re-analyzed on the required items by the analysis unit 1. In the analysis system of this second embodiment, because the second rotor is replaced with the box-shaped second buffer unit, the ISE analysis unit 2 is disposed on the side near the first rotor 7. Stated another way, the ISE analysis unit 2 is disposed on the upstream side in the analysis system. Therefore, when the sample is requested for ISE analysis, the ISE analysis can be carried out on that sample prior to the ordinary analysis. Sampling for the ISE analysis may be performed directly from the sample held on the first rotor 7 or performed from the sample moved into a lead line (not shown) which is provided in the ISE analysis unit 2 for the purpose of sampling. Such a modification in the manner for the ISE analysis is similarly applicable to the first embodiment. As an

alternative, depending on how the analysis unit 1 and the ISE analysis unit 2 are jammed in analysis schedule, it is possible to select which one of the ISE analysis and the measurement required in the analysis unit 1 is first carried out. In the case of carrying out first the ISE analysis and then the measurement required in the analysis unit 1, the sample rack 13 is conveyed to and analyzed in the analysis unit 1 through the same route in accordance with the same control flow as those in the first embodiment. Upon the completion of the analysis, the sample rack is conveyed to the first rotor or the second buffer unit where it waits for until the analyzed result is obtained.

Page 20, the second full paragraph, lines 5 to 26, replace the paragraph with:

The second buffer unit (34, 35, 36) includes a line 34 which is extended parallel to the second conveyer line 9 and is movable in both-way. The line 34 is driven by a belt on which partitions are provided to form a plurality of lines. Each of the lines can hold a plurality of sample racks on it. The first and second line switching units 8, 11 are movable up to the last line in the second buffer unit. The sample rack 13 for which the analysis has completed is transferred to a line entrance 35 of the second buffer unit by the second line switching unit 11. With rotation of the belt, the sample rack 13 is received into the second buffer unit. Sample stoppers 37 are disposed at sample rack delivery exits 36 of the respective lines independently of each other, and the belt is continued to rotate until the sample rack 13 strikes against

the corresponding sample stopper 37. The sample racks 13 may be placed in the second buffer unit in regular order from the most front line or at random. Anyway, at what number position on which one of the lines each of the sample racks has been placed is stored in a storage. The sample rack 13 stands by in the second buffer unit until the analysis results of all samples set in the sample rack 13 are obtained.